

Can Axolotls Live Together? (What You Need To Know)

We never want our pets to get lonely. So whether it's a cat, dog, guinea pig, or an amphibian, like the axolotl, you will probably consider getting a companion for your buddy.

But with axolotls, it helps to ask whether they really need to be with their kind in the same tank.

Axolotls can live together, but it's going you have to ensure their safety and harmony. First, you have to make sure that the axolotls are the same size and age. It is also important to provide enough tank space and food to avoid any fatal competition.

Axolotls are not social animals. This means they can get by on their own. Plus, they have violent tendencies that could end up in cannibalism. And that's one sight you definitely don't want to see.

Nevertheless, if you're adamant about keeping two or more axolotl, it is still possible. But you gotta be careful in setting up their home.

If you want to know how to set a healthy and safe environment for multiple axolotls living together, just keep reading as we elaborate the requirements in the next few lines.

Should Axolotls Be Kept in Pairs?

Keeping axolotls in pairs is more of an owner's preference than a need for the said salamander species. Axolotls are highly independent amphibians.

They can survive on their own without socializing with their kind. In a way, they are highly introverted and do not need company to be entertained.

Axolotls can even play on their own by engulfing air from the water surface and just floating or burping the bubble off the water.

On the other hand, several accounts describe how axolotls hang out with each other.

Nevertheless, there's no pressure on keeping axolotls in pairs. But, it's also quite okay if you keep two or more in a single tank, provided that the requirements are met. Otherwise, it's a recipe for disaster, considering axolotls can take the other as a snack.

How Many Axolotls Can You Have in One Tank?

The number of axolotls you can keep in a single tank depends on its size.

Naturally, if you have a small aquarium of about 20 gallons, two axolotls definitely won't fit. And if you insist on keeping them together within this inadequate space, their living arrangement will be highly affected.

Axolotls are not exactly territorial. But they might compete with food or get into aggressive fights, which could leave one or both of them mutilated.

Sure, their limbs will grow back after being eaten or injured, but the entire living situation could end with one of them floating on the surface.

What Could Happen if You Keep Two or More Axolotls Together?

Axolotls can coexist with one another without any problems. However, there's also the likelihood of one axolotl overpowering the other.

As a pet owner, you might as well know that axolotls tend to eat their own. They are, after all, predatory, and they could feast on the smaller or younger population of their kind.

Hence, it's generally not recommended to put two or more axolotls together if you are a new pet owner.

However, if you're determined to have multiple axolotls in one tank, it's best to learn about the factors you should consider.

What To Consider Before Having Axolotls Live Together

The harmony, health, and safety of axolotls living together depend on the kind of environment you set up. This means you must provide enough living space, food, and other needs.

Moreover, other factors have to be considered as well, such as the sex of the axolotls, size, and age.

Compatibility is critical when having axolotls live together. For most parts, it determines their survival in the tank.

Tank Space

The size of the tank is crucial in determining how many axolotls you can keep together.

As a rule of thumb, two axolotls should be placed in a 40-gallon aquarium measuring about 2 ft. Then, if you're adding another axolotl, increase the size of the tank by adding 10 more gallons.

For example, if you have four axolotls, the minimum tank size you should get would be around 60 gallons.

Moreover, make sure that the tank is wide enough to allow both axolotls to swim and play around. Also, a bigger tank ensures that the axolotls don't dwell in their filth, considering they produce tons of waste.

One key element for a tank suitable for multiple axolotls is floor space. The standard allocation is one foot of space per axolotl.

Sex

There's nothing wrong about placing a male and a female axolotl together. That is, if you're okay with them mating eventually.

Reproduction doesn't happen randomly among these salamanders. Axolotls need to go past their juvenile stage.

And when axolotls reach their reproductive maturity at 18 months, they begin to mate. The male deposits sperm capsules and the female picks them up and places them in her cloaca or genital opening.

A female can produce hundreds of eggs, roughly between 100 to 400.

If you are determined not to have your axolotls mating, you should consider pairing axolotls with similar sex in a single tank.

Nevertheless, you could still place male and female axolotls together, provided that the tank is spacious and you keep a close eye on all of them.

Size

It's an axolotl eat axolotl world out there - or at least inside a shared tank.

Axolotls are known to have cannibalistic tendencies. However, they don't just attack or eat their own, especially if there's going to be a fight. This means that larger axolotls will most likely feed on smaller ones.

Therefore, placing two axolotls of different sizes can end up in disaster. So, before deciding to pair up axolotls inside a single tank, make sure they are the same size.

If you already purchased your axolotls, and one of them is bigger than the other, consider placing a tank divider to avoid interactions between the two.

Age

Together with size, age is also a critical factor in keeping multiple axolotls in a single tank.

Naturally, younger axolotls tend to be smaller, and older ones are larger. That's the general rule of life. Hence, if you place two or more axolotls with varying ages, it's very likely that they may not get along.

The larger one can show aggression and bully the younger ones. If the difference in size is by a long shot, the smaller axolotls can be eaten in some cases.

Food

Feeding your axolotl regularly is an effective way of keeping them off each other. If they don't experience hunger inside the tank, they don't have to feed on their roommate.

Therefore, it only makes sense to provide enough food for the number of axolotls you have in the tank.

Likewise, take note of any aggressive behaviors during feeding time. For example, some axolotls tend to be competitive when it comes to food.

Moreover, they would sometimes mistakenly eat the limbs or other axolotls. If they show some aggression, place a divider inside the tank to avoid these incidents.

Final Thoughts

As a pet owner, you can always opt to keep two or more axolotls in the same tank.

However, it's essential to understand that with multiple axolotls come more responsibilities and considerations.

Axolotls are not necessarily social creatures, yet they are also not strictly solitary. Nevertheless, they could survive either way.

But if they are kept with a company, it could pose an additional danger, especially if the tank is too small or the food is too scarce. So, you have to consider factors such as size, age, and sex to avoid incidents of aggression when pairing up axolotls.